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Counsellor

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SESSION UNDERWAY FEBRUARY 13TH

TWO MUNICIPAL ACTS FOR REVISION

FIRST FOR 15TH LEGISLATURE

Municipal legislation going before the Legislative Assembly this session will be amendments occasioned in part by resolutions approved by the Union of Alberta Municipalities and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, it was pointed out recently by A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The session, first of the fifteenth legislature, opens on February 13 and will be featured by the selection of a Speaker before getting down to regular business. Arthur J. Dixon filled the position during last year's session, following the death of Hon. Peter Dawson.

Subject to considerable revision are The Improvement Districts Act and The Special Areas Act, Mr. Morrison stated. He said both are being brought up to date. A proposed change giving villages greater representation on county school committees was approved by the Alberta School Trustees Association and the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, but implementing legislation may not be presented to the Legislature at this time.

Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs, returning to Edmonton early in February after a holiday at Victoria, will be tabling the 1962 Annual Report of the Department soon after the official opening. Terms of The Department of Municipal Affairs Act provide for the tabling of the report "within fifteen days after the commencement of the session."

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

TO MEET AT RED DEER

The second annual Rural Fire Protection Conference will be held at Red Deer's Capri Motor Hotel on March 4 and 5, W.D. MacKay, Deputy Fire Commissioner, announced in a letter dated January 28 and sent to municipal secretaries, fire chiefs and other interested parties in Alberta. It is hoped the attendance will exceed that of last year's conference at which 133 guests were registered.

In his letter Mr. MacKay indicated the major business of the conference would be consideration of a set of by-laws and a constitution drafted by the interim committee set up in 1963. Topics on the agenda for the second day are a discussion of rural fire protection equipment, Workmen's Compensation and volunteer fire departments, county administration of rural fire protection, as well as the general consideration of resolutions presented to conference delegates. In this connection those having a subject relating to rural fire protection are invited to send it in to the Fire Commissioner's Office.

Mr. MacKay lists several "aims and purposes" of the rural fire protection association which it is anticipated will come out of the conference. This list includes:

- o Standardization of equipment for rural fire protection
- o Promotion of the idea of mutual aid among fire departments
- o Negotiation with government and public bodies on rural fire protection matters
- o Action as the central body to handle fire prevention and fire protection problems.

ARDA PROJECT IN EDSON AREA

BEGIN MAJOR STUDY OF RESOURCES

A pilot project of far-reaching significance under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act has been approved and will get underway shortly, according to G.R. Sterling, Co-ordinator for Alberta's ARDA Committee. He said the project will be carried out in the Edson district and will include a comprehensive study of parts of Improvement Districts 78, 79, 95 and 109.

Concept of the undertaking is to make a detailed inventory of all human and natural resources available within the area designated, Mr. Sterling stated, with a view to discovering possible weaknesses within the economy of the district. An analysis of the information thus obtained will then be made to be followed by recommendations for the more efficient and more effective use of resources, with the end result being to increase employment and income opportunities for persons living within the district. He said once the study is completed, the Act allows for follow-up agreements to enable further projects to be carried out.

Mr. Sterling pointed out that the Edson project will provide guidelines for future research on rural development in other parts of the Province. He said the entire project, together with the recommendations arising from the studies made, are expected to be completed by the end of March, 1965, but he was confident that studies of a similar nature to follow will be completed more rapidly. The Edson area was chosen, he said, because it is fairly typical of other areas in the grey-wooded soil zones of Alberta; because the potential for economic development, both agricultural and non-agricultural, appears good; because local interest and potential leadership within the district are favorable; and because several government groups are conducting programs within the area which should provide invaluable information for the present study.

Organization of the ARDA Committee for Alberta, consisting
(To Page 7)

THE CHANGING SCENE

Applications have been received for the amalgamation of the Municipal District of Minburn No. 72 and the Vegreville School Division No. 19 to form Alberta's 27th county. The municipal district and the school division both made application for county status. It is anticipated formation of the new county will be authorized in due course to become effective under the terms of The County Act on January 1, 1965.

Already announced in Chief Municipal Inspector Bruce Ramsay's review of branch activities for 1963 is the incorporation of four new villages. The villages, all incorporated as from January 1, 1964, are Paradise Valley, Linden, Longview and Torrington. Two of these . . . Torrington and Linden . . . are east of Olds and some 14 miles apart. Paradise Valley is south-east of Lloydminster; while Longview in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains is west of High River.

Counting 21 summer villages, the four new incorporations bring to 162 the number of villages in the Province.

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

THE WORLD OF SPRING

The world of spring lies far beyond the rim
Of snowy hills that shut me in
A land of wistful dreams.

Yet all these white-walled highways
A-winding to the south,
Sometime, somewhere, will meet the spring
in a garden,
Find budding trees and whirring wings,
And all the fragrant, flowery things.

o Louise Leighton in Ideals

LOOKING BACKWARD

Reading this second issue of our ninth volume one would not be blamed for observing that some of our subject matter tends to run in cycles. For example, we find ourselves beginning each year with brief reviews of the previous twelve months prepared by departmental officials. And for a change of pace, as regularly as July arrives in the glory of summertime, we are more than pleased to run a story of what happened the month before during the Refresher Course at Banff.

It would indeed be passing strange if our publication were otherwise than cyclical.

This brings us to February at which time each year we have the space and the desire to list the urban centres having a red-lettered date during the ensuing year that they might want to celebrate. What we're suggesting is that 1964 is the golden anniversary of fifteen urban municipalities in this Province of Alberta. At least there would be fifteen if they were still incorporated. The simple truth is that while 1914 is notable (among other things) for the fifteen urban formations recorded that year, the final score is only ten . . . because no less than four villages didn't quite make it, while one of the towns formed that year (Beverly) is now a part of Edmonton. But a little more about towns later.

We have a card index of Alberta's rural and urban formations, of course. But part of the research we like to conduct for this type of effort involves the Annual Report of the relevant twelve months as prepared fifty years ago by Deputy Minister Jno. Perrie for Hon. Wilfrid Gariepy, then Minister of Municipal Affairs. In his 1914 report, Mr. Perrie proved himself an incurable optimist because, after referring to "the abnormal financial conditions brought about by the outbreak of war" and the "almost total crop failure in portions of the south" he summed up 1914 as "a year of development".

What he probably had in mind were the 18 rural municipalities, the 13 new villages and two towns which had been organized during 1914. Dealing with rural municipalities (the term "municipal districts" was not adopted until 1918) Mr. Perrie reported "The work of taking over the financing of school districts, dealing with questions relating to stock running at large, public health and so on, have brought before them new and sometimes difficult problems, but the councils of the different municipalities are taking hold of them in a manner that will no doubt bring successful results".

He goes on to warn that "a great source of trouble in connection with any municipal form of government is the indifference of electors" thus pinpointing a danger which is just as ominous now after fifty years. A little further along, he says, "During the year 1914 the average rate of taxation in local improvement districts was some 5 3/4 cents per acre, while the average rate of taxation in our rural municipalities was about 4 1/2 mills on the dollar" . . . thereby illuminating the tremendous strides made in many phases of our development over the past fifty years.

Most years Mr. Perrie used to include in his reports descriptions of the municipal units together with the names of their councillors and secretary-treasurers. As a matter of course in his 1914 report he listed the name of a young man who had already served for nearly four years as secretary-treasurer of L.I.D. No. 312. We can imagine Mr. Perrie's reaction if he had been told the incumbent, E.W. Miller of Lobley,

would remain active during the fifty years which followed.

Reading further, we were pleased to note that Chief Municipal Inspector Bruce Ramsey's Uncle Tom was a councillor for the Rural Municipality of Carbon No. 278 in 1914. Still further, we learn our own Uncle Ed of Botha that year represented Division 3 of L.I.D. No. 366.

Turning to urban formations in 1914, Clyde led off by being incorporated a village on January 28. Empress, on our south western boundary, followed closely on February 5, and northerly again, Legal, perhaps eager to keep abreast of her neighbor, was granted village status on February 20.

According to our records (and abandoning chronology) Big Valley was made a village on July 28 that year, and although it went on to become a town November 15, 1920, the citizens of Big Valley can mark the earlier date as beginning 50 full years of incorporation and the measure of self-government involved.

Bow City (Ron Carter had to check the 1914 Gazette for details of this one) was organized a village on July 13, 1914, but although there is no record of its dissolution, we doubt if what is left of the settlement will mark the date with any enthusiasm. Dunmore, incorporated May 14, 1914, met a similar fate . . . but in this case the little centre was formally dissolved on February 4 after five years of trying.

The other two village formations which have since been disorganized were Monitor (incorporated May 15, 1914; dissolved December 31, 1945) and Retlaw (June 30, 1914, to March 1, 1939).

On the other hand, Grande Prairie became a village on April 30, and burgeoning as a town on March 27 five years later, grew to city stature on September 24, 1957. Still in our inland empire, the Village of Peace River Crossing was formed on June 2. They dropped "Crossing" on May 22, 1916, and have enjoyed town status since December 1, 1919.

Speaking of name changes, they organized the Village of Highland on July 20, 1914, but for undetermined reasons changed its name to Delia a few months later. It seems Delia was the name of a post office nearby which dated back to 1909.

Last on our list of village formations that year are Cereal (August 19) and Veteran which was incorporated June 30. Veteran had been named in 1911 along with Consort, Loyalist, Throne and Coronation, and although there were those who preferred Wheatbelt until 1913, the more patriotic name won out on the ministerial order.

Finally, there were two towns formed in 1914. As already mentioned, Beverly (still somewhat remote from Edmonton at the time) qualified as a town on July 13 and enjoyed that status for most of 47 years until, no longer remote, it was annexed by Edmonton on December 30, 1961.

The earlier town formation was Hanna, for it was on April 14, 1914, that Hanna, already a railroad centre of considerable stature, was granted the rights and prerogatives of a town. We suspect Hanna will celebrate the occasion with proper civic enthusiasm. It's that kind of town. ●

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" . . . A GREAT PROVINCE WITH MANY VARIATIONS "

A REVIEW OF THE FARM PICTURE

BY HON. H. E. STROM, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

FROM AN ADDRESS TO THE 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES

It is now a little over a year since I came into office and I have found it most interesting. It has been my pleasure to travel to all parts of the Province at various times of the year and to discover that Alberta is a great Province with many variations. This year we have had drought areas in the south and drought areas in the Peace River. In between we have had all the varying conditions that one generally finds in our Province. However, Alberta has enjoyed a better crop than last year, although prior to the latter part of June the situation looked very grim. In spite of good rain at that time, particularly in the south, a large block in the south-east corner of the Province suffered complete crop loss. A large area in the Peace River suffered one of the poorest crops on record. From a recent report it is indicated that Alberta has submitted most of the PFAA claims. It is reported that a total of 1777 townships have submitted claims and of these 1032 are from Alberta and B.C., 325 from Sask. and 420 from Manitoba.

At the present time it appears from investigations that we in the Department have made, that feed supplies in nearly all instances are much improved over last year. Pasture lands are also much better. But we are still not out of trouble and I believe that due to the dry fall we have had there is a lack of reserve moisture in certain areas.

As yet we have not initiated a freight assistance policy on the movement of feed, but we are watching the situation closely and if the winter warrants it we will establish a freight assistance policy. The federal government has written advising that they are ready to share with us in freight assistance if and when it is necessary. We will appreciate the municipal governments in the areas of difficulty keeping in touch with us and giving us your thinking on this. We recognize also that under the Agricultural Relief Advances Act it possibly will be necessary for us to extend help to some areas and we expect to work with the municipalities to provide this assistance.

CROP INSURANCE:

During the past year a committee from the Department of Agriculture of Mr. A.M. Wilson, Field Crops Commissioner, Chairman; Dr. G.R. Purnell, Director of Farm Economics; and Mr. R. English, Agric. Statistician, made a study and submitted a report on crop insurance for Alberta.

Several factors have emerged from this report. Variable crop yields is the principal and contributing factor the instability of farm income and this in turn has a serious effect in the planning of a farm operation. Farmers lack adequate financial reserves and often the loss of one crop may result in financial difficulty. High cost of operation on the standard requirements of farmers today create the necessity of having finances available to carry on normal operations.

From the outset the rate adjustments between individual farmers through an accumulating discount system are provided for. Indemnities are paid for on an individual farm basis but no attempt will be made to arrive at premium rates that are applicable to each farm. Experience in the U.S. showed that when this was tried farmers tended to bias yields upwards. Any attempt to set premium rates the same for the whole Province will be impractical and unfair, but as yet we are not sure on what size of a unit premiums will be established. The farmer taking on crop insurance will not have the PFAA 1% deduction on his grain delivered to the elevator. On a 20 bushel per acre crop at \$1.50 per bushel this would mean a saving of 30¢ that could be applied to insurance. The federal legislation provides that the premium must not exceed 15% of the coverage and therefore large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta will not qualify for crop insurance. I will have to stress again that we cannot possibly have an equal premium for the whole Province. In Manitoba, I am told that the productivity of each quarter section is determined as a basis for establishing coverage and premium rate.

It has been suggested that the Alberta Hail Board might handle crop insurance for us and I believe their experience in the field of hail insurance would be a real help. Under the federal legislation it requires that 25% of the farmers participate in any designated insurance area and we have thought that possibly a county or municipality could be designated as an area for the basis of determining whether or not

to proceed. Administrative costs for crop insurance are estimated to be about 25% of the total premium paid. Even though this is shareable between the federal government and the Province it is an item that must not be overlooked. We are moving forward toward crop insurance plan for Alberta in the Department but it has yet to go before the executive council and also be approved by an Act of the Legislative Assembly. We must pass enabling legislation before a crop insurance plan can be instituted in our province.

At this point I would not attempt to try and tell the farmers that they should cut down on grain acreage because I believe that only by the Grace of God through timely rains were we able to produce crops that we did in much of Western Canada. Financial return and the ability to move grain will still be the guiding factor in the farmer's decision to increase or decrease grain acreage in the coming years. I am sure that you have heard from time to time those that have advocated that there should be a cut back. I suggest for the reasons given that farmers are going to be making their own decisions as to whether or not they will.

FARM PURCHASE CREDIT ACT:

On August 1st of this year (1963) a change was made in the operation of our Farm Purchase Credit Act. At the request of your Association and other farm organizations practically all of the operation formerly carried on by the municipalities has been taken over by a central board operating from within our department. The local Farm Purchase Boards will now be operating as advisory boards through the central boards. Mr. Ken Taylor is our new chairman of the central board replacing Mr. Gordon Sterling who is now able to devote more time to ARDA. During this transition period some delays may be experienced in processing applications but we believe the new arrangement is more satisfactory to everyone concerned.

To date we have processed over 2155 applications and this has made possible the purchase of over 25 million dollars worth of land. Our total cash loan to date is 11 million 555 thousand 956 dollars. Our default payments are a little higher than I like to see them. But I am convinced that we are assisting a group of applicants that could not be assisted on any other loan policy. I have said before and I repeat again, that I do not think the Province should be in the competitive field of financing but that under our Act I believe that we are assisting a group that would not be able to get assistance otherwise.

CHEMICAL FARMING:

During the past year considerable attention has been given to the use of chemicals for pest and weed control. There are some who would like to banish the use of pesticides and herbicides from the face of the earth. As farmers I am sure you recognize they are an invaluable boon to agriculture and without their discovery our production would be considerably less and our problems of control greatly increased. Banning the use of chemicals because of misuse is not the answer.

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HARRY EDWIN STROM was born on a homestead at Burdett July 7, 1914. His parents, both of whom were born in Sweden, settled first in Minnesota and then moved to Alberta in 1909.



Prior to his election to the Legislature in 1955, Mr. Strom had a long record of public service . . . as a municipal councillor, on school boards, as a director of his REA, President of the Agricultural Improvement Association, director of the Western Canada Reclamation Association, and with many other groups.

Mr. Strom married the former Ruth Johnson of Bow Island. They have three sons and three daughters and are members of the Evangelical Free Church.

Active in grain farming, irrigation and livestock raising, Mr. Strom was appointed Minister of Agriculture on October 15, 1962.



THE REALITY OF THE CITY-REGION

BY NOEL DANT, PROVINCIAL PLANNING DIRECTOR

Within the last few years, we have witnessed a series of annexation orders issued in this Province which, in effect, add more and more land to some of our urban areas and, in particular, to the corporate boundaries of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. In fact, Calgary now boasts the largest land area of any corporate city in Canada and, in the case of Edmonton, we all know that a complicated and large annexation application by that city is about to be decided very shortly.

Now there is nothing wrong with the concept of annexation per se - it is a valid 'tool' of sound local governmental organization and reorganization. Its use is dictated chiefly by the functional and administrative realities of the area at the time of annexation - or stated more simply, a city may find itself at any particular time beset with an expanding developmental administrative problem which is best solved by the simple method of annexation. However, after repeated annexations by these two largest cities in this Province, some of us are beginning to question - "Where is all this going to end? - "Are we to go on adding and adding land to our cities until we become extended giants one day of the same order as Montreal, Toronto and other such urban agglomerations today?" - "Do we really want to live and work in an environment comparable to that which we know exists now in these metropolii?"

The accumulative result of successive annexations is, of course, more and more urban development at the fringes of the built-up area which, in their own turn, produce a new fringe extending a little further from the centre of the city than before - and so on and so on!

Planners have a technical name for this form of urban growth. It is concentric growth by accretion. The quality of environment that can be created within each little 'bubble' of annexation need not, in itself, be condemned - in these days of advanced urban design knowledge and enlightened enabling legislation, it could be a quite amenable part of the total environment, if expertly handled. If an analogy for this kind of fringe growth can be found, it might be likened to a non-malignant 'cancer' (although 'cancer' may be a rather harsh word in this context). The real malignancy begins to be apparent when, as a result of several such contiguous and concentric developments, the distance between the extremities of the urban fringe and the centre of the city becomes so great, that, in the total urban fabric of the city so formed, free movement becomes insufferably constricted with especially strong 'cancerous' manifestations at the centre.

SPACE FOR MOVEMENT:

Let me digress for a moment. Our modern way of life entails above all - movement - more movement than we could ever have guessed at twenty years ago, and obviously more movement than ever is to be forecast for the future. Movement implies space. Movement (call it traffic, if you will), has always been an indispensable part of human settlement, and it will always be so. It is an element within a single room - the way in which we disperse the furniture so as to allow free movement between the door and the various parts of the room. To complete the spectrum, movement flows within a building and in a garden; in a park, in lanes and streets within the neighborhood; in highways and expressways within the community, and finally in freeways, railways and airways between communities. Traffic, as old as human settlement, is the prime factor which leads to their proper formation and their proper functioning. The tragedy of our huge urban complexes is fundamentally that they provide such little space in which to move.

Not only are we living in a changing world - the rate of change is constantly altering - and in most phenomena (particularly that of human settlement) accelerating. Thus, it is more realistic to say that the rate of increase of this particular problem is accelerating.

The magnitude of this perspective is tremendous if we consider one simple fact; that is, the total amount of wealth created on earth since the beginning of civilization until today. This has been estimated at \$13 million millions. It has also been estimated that this figure will double in the next 40 years. By the very nature of things, most of this astronomical figure has been invested in one form or another in human settlement. This means in effect, that in the next 2 decades,

"... IS SHEER 'BIGNESS' A VIRTUE IN ITSELF?"

humanity is going to invest as much in settlements as it has since the beginning of civilization! Not only will investments increase at this rate, but the surface of the earth required for this expansion of settlement will increase year by year on a per capita basis. We are thus heading towards forms of human settlement which will differ completely from the forms of the past.

Because of our inaction and our inability to understand the real issue, we are allowing new wealth to be accumulated around our existing urban concentration, and leading them to a slow death thereby. If we overlook this truth, we condemn our settlements to move in the vicious cycle of congestion and pressures at the centre, urban renewal at high cost in the central or near central zones, followed by temporary relief, followed by a more acute outbreak of the same symptoms by another circle of concentric development. It will be a mere matter of time only until the same kind of pressures once again break out at the central core of the city, because of the overloading of functions at the then fringe, despite great efforts put into renewal at the centre. The continuous damage wrought by the aggregate of peripheral growth at the centre must be self-apparent.

Are we therefore to allow Edmonton and Calgary continuously to grow at the fringe until these two cities become members of that awful club of urban giants? Is sheer 'bigness' a virtue in itself, does it really add to prestige, or to come down to more important things for its citizens, does it create an environment conducive to a convenient (even 'pleasant') and economically sound kind of urban life for all? I very much doubt it!

NOT TOO LATE YET:

The pressures for inevitable and continuing urban growth must therefore be dissipated other than at the constantly changing fringes. Fortunately Edmonton and Calgary are not so large yet as to be placed in the same unenviable category as Montreal, Toronto and other huge agglomerations of this order. If a different approach to our growth problems is not accepted and implemented, we surely will drift in that direction. We still have time to make a complete break from our erstwhile and current 'drift' propensities.

The provision of much needed expressways criss-crossing our present urban areas, though an essential requirement now, will not solve the movement problem itself. Such would provide an immediate, if temporary palliative. A limited dispersal of everything urban can, I suggest, offer the best alternative known to man at this time.

The most eminent of professional planners for some years now have not only accepted the theory of limited dispersal of growth, but have put the theory to the test many times over and have not found it wanting. I am speaking of rational satellite dispersal - not so-called quasi-satellite growth in the sense of purely dormitory settlement, but satellite towns, largely self-contained in all normal urban facilities and amenities, including a balanced tax-base, as viable urban entities in themselves, only looking to the parent central city for certain facilities too universal, too economically and too organizationally large to be found in themselves, such as a University, a colosseum, the usual concentrated though variegated downtown shopping area, et cetera. Many European and some Asiatic and African countries have embarked on programmes of true satellite dispersal, to name a few - Britain, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, France, Malaya, India, Pakistan, Ghana, Israel - many such new towns are complete and laid within the fabric of total settlement in the area in which they have been located. They are happier places in which to live and work, and certainly more free of the daily frustrations of movement in the larger cities. By these alternative growth locations, the parent city is itself saved from adding to the frustrations inherent in its fabric, and eventually saved too from excessively costly urban renewal.

ELEMENTS OF HIERARCHY:

In this hierarchy of urban settlement we find three main elements - the group of satellite towns, the central city and the intervening space between them all and around each. It can be assumed that the satellite towns will be planned from scratch to provide for adequate

Mr. Dant's thought-provoking article was published in The Edmonton JOURNAL last October. He wishes at this time (as then) to emphasise that the thoughts expressed in the article are in no way to be construed as being provincial government policy on this subject.

movement of traffic within each other, that the central city will be redeveloped with an appropriate expressway system within itself, and that this system will be linked with a city-regional freeway system to span each satellite and between one satellite and another. Continuous growth will be contained as each satellite develops, and although limits will be placed on further outward fringe growth (of an intense urban kind) from the central city itself, more intense urban growth will be possible within the central city, vertically - the whole yielding a continual state of balance, one part with another and minimizing potential traffic generating kinds of land-use from being concentrated together, as would be the case of unlimited expansions at the fringe.

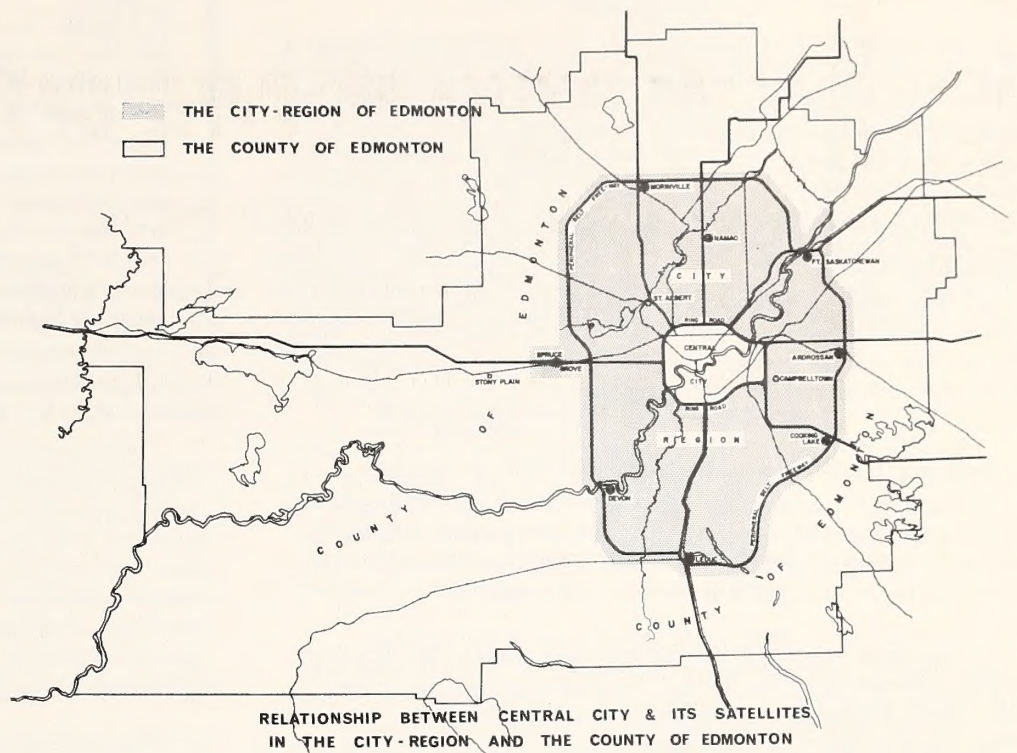
This hierarchy of settlement is known as the city-region. It is different in concept from the so-called metropolitanistic form of organization as implemented in the Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg areas.

These larger cities have been forced to adopt Metropolitanism, as they are already too vast in sprawl for the city-region concept of growth to be now possible. They have been forced into this method of handling growth because of the excessive and successive accretional growths at the fringes. These have been of such a scale that no other method for tackling this kind of growth problem has yet been advanced. Metropolitanism implies, inevitable, organizationally and administratively-wise, a fourth-tier of government (at least in this country). Many consider even a three-tier government system to be top-heavy at times, even more would a four-tier system be shied away from, if other alternatives were possible. In the city-region concept, this is possible, it does not entail a further tier of local government - the central city, the satellite towns, and the intervening spaces could all be organized under a single unified local government, preferable on a modified 'ward' system based on some form of realistic proportional representation on the city-region Council.

AS APPLIED TO EDMONTON:

To take Edmonton's case in particular, if one conceives of the city-region on extending out as far as Morinville, Fort Saskatchewan, Campbelltown, Leduc, Devon, Stony Plain or Spruce Grove and St. Albert, one might say that in so organizing a city-regional kind of local government would mean a dismembering of some of the tax-yielding land areas of the municipal districts and counties contiguous to the present corporate boundary of the City of Edmonton. That is true. A glance at the map will show Edmonton is circumscribed directly by the Counties of Sturgeon River and Strathcona and the M.D. of Stony Plain, and to a certain extent, though not contiguously with the M.D. of Leduc. If however such lands, which would form the peripheral lands of the city-region, were removed from the local jurisdiction of these rural municipalities, the residual lands remaining in these four municipalities when added together could form, I submit, a viable and financially stable single rural municipality which would resemble the shape of an asymmetrical doughnut - with the city-region of Edmonton occupying the 'hole'. This greatly desired evolution of local government organization in the Edmonton and Calgary areas could be done painlessly and with as little interruption to the existing regimen of local administration as may be.

Most European countries are so much more intensively developed than Alberta, for instance, partly because of their comparably smaller land areas, and partly because development in them has been a continuous process for hundreds of years longer than Canada. It should not be a paradox that because they have far less land around their chief cities, they can afford to go over to city-regional urban development of the kind I have discussed, than we in Alberta. If these countries can and have introduced the city-regional concept, the more so should we do so in Alberta, with our relatively plentiful supply of low intensively 'developed' land around our city fringes. In using this extra space needed for a better balanced and more dispersed ur-



ban growth wisely, we can and should also cut down on space we have been 'wasting' for many years, i.e. minimizing our appallingly costly low residential densities, so commonly found in western Canada.

GREEN-BELT OF THE BIBLE:

It has been suggested that the Province might step in and buy up the intervening space lands in this city-region concept, the better to control the speculative tendencies for such land to be given over to high intensive urban uses. The over-all plans of the city-region would call for these lands to remain in low intensive development in perpetuity, the better to prevent accretional fringe growth. These lands could then be leased back to their present owners for a 99 year period. The cost of such land will easily have paid for itself long before this period has elapsed.

In conclusion, I quote from the Fourth Book of Moses called Numbers, Chapter 35, verses 1 - 3,

"And the Lord spake unto Moses

Command the children of Israel that they give unto the Levites of the inheritance of their possession cities to dwell in and ye shall give also unto the Levites suburbs for the cities roundabout them, and the cities shall they have to dwell in and the suburbs of them shall be for their cattle and for their goods and for all their beasts"

It would appear therefore, that the Lord did not intend cities to grow sprawling outwards. The meaning of the word 'suburbs' in this quotation is not the meaning of common modern usage - the meaning would appear to be synonymous to our present day ideas of a green-belt or a zone of land around the city in which a low-intense kind of rural use would be permitted. Further verses in this chapter go on to specify the exact size of these Levitical cities and the exact size of the 'suburbs' without.

NEW TAX BASE

Why has no one seriously suggested the use of property size instead of value as the measure of the tax base? By size, I mean the square foot area of land and building floor space. If it is benefit from services that justifies the tax base, surely size is at least as good and probably more logical than value as a measure of the benefit received.

By the use of size, a taxpayer who improved his property without increasing its dimensions would not be penalized; a new property would pay the same as an old one of the same size and population density (and so would encourage redevelopment); size is easy to measure compared with value; it would be easy and cheap to administer; it would be certain; and as it would be simple and understandable, litigation should be cut to a trickle and confined to points of law in the enabling statute.

o F.H. Finnis in The Globe and Mail

A REVIEW OF THE FARM PICTURE

(From Page 3)

In Canada we have approximately 8000 brandnames registered last year. Most of these are merely derivatives of chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbon. It is no secret now that many pesticides are extremely dangerous to animals and human beings if exposed to certain levels of these chemicals. However, everyone agrees that most serious illnesses traced to pesticides are the result of failure to follow simple directions on the label. Perhaps the most common errors committed on farms are the spraying of livestock with chemicals not intended for that use, the excessive use of chemicals, or the spraying of pesticides shortly before harvest time, or the contamination of pastures and water supplies, either accidentally or intentionally. These practices are posing a greater hazard to the safety of agricultural products which are directly or indirectly exposed to various pesticides.

An extended program is therefore necessary to detect and control the presence of these compounds. We are continually carrying out such a program through our department with the assistance of the Federal Department of Agriculture. Continual research is being carried on in the use of chemicals and also the better methods of determining the levels of residue in various food products.

In an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post of September 28, 1963 entitled "The Myth of the Pesticide Menace" written by a Mr. Edwin Diamond, several interesting and noteworthy points are made. This man claims to have helped Rachel Carson at the outset of a book project that resulted in Miss Carson's 1962 best selling report on pesticides entitled "Silent Spring". He points out that it is easy to convince people that some unknown person or persons are trying to poison the world, that wealthy industry is always promoting at any cost to make a dollar. That major chemical companies are pouring large sums of money into universities to support research on insecticides and that this creates attractive fellowships for graduates and attractive staff positions and so they say that this is why certain entomologists are among the leading advocates of chemical control.

What they fail to explain is that these same men drink the same water, eat the same food, as that which is supposed to be poisoned. Reference is made to a so-called death wind and we speak of it as coming over the land. Did you realize that in the U.S. for example, less than 5% of the land is sprayed. The 9-man President's Science Advisory Committee noted that about 150 people died from pesticide poisoning. Death from accidental use of aspirin was 200 last year. Did you know that 150 people died from bee stings? In Java spraying was carried out in anti malaria control and someone deplored that many cats died but they didn't say that thousands of human lives were saved. The article concludes by stating that the pesticide problem can be handled without going back to the dark ages and with this I heartily agree. I have quoted at length from this article to bring out the kind of reasoning we often use. I am not in favor of banning the use of chemicals on this type of reasoning. Its use should be determined by the federal government through extensive research followed by a requirement of labelling all products with simple and understandable directions for its proper use. Unless we exercise proper care and reasonable caution we shall be forced into regulations governing the proper use that could have been avoided.

I want to say that we in the department have given consideration to it. We are concerned as I am sure all of you are concerned. Let us recognize our responsibility. Mr. Chairman, maybe I've spent more time on this subject than I should, but I hope we recognize its importance at this time.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES:

I am happy to report that the attendance at our schools of agriculture and vocational colleges is up a little. We are moving ahead with a building program that will see new buildings at the 3 locations. Attention has been given to a new curriculum that will better fit the program to present day needs. Academic subjects are now taught on a tri-semester basis at Olds and if successful will be used at the other schools as well. We hope that public support will continue strong for our agricultural school program.

ARDA PROJECTS:

We come now to the subject of ARDA. In reporting on the projects underway I wish to again state that this is not a crash type program but one that can expand to a whole community development and consequently does not move with haste. We are continuing with community pasture development. A study has been made of the purchase of some patented lands in the forestry area in order that these lands might be developed solely for water shed protection rather than to be allowed to be overgrazed and consequently to leave the water shed

PRICE OF PROGRESS

Towns, and cities, which owe their vigor to advantageous location due to regional and country-wide influences and the productivity of the soil, have made no effort to be selective in the land which is to be used for building purposes. Price has ruled supreme. High-quality arable land has been taken out of agricultural production as if there were an endless supply. And if the new land use resulted in effluent being discharged into the nearest lake or stream, this has been regarded as the "price of progress". Air pollution, although a deadly menace to both human life and vegetation, has also been accepted much too lightly.

o Ontario Division, Community Planning Association of Canada

barren.

We have forwarded and received approval for studies concerning irrigation projects. The federal government and PFRA are presently making a complete study of the cost of renovation of some of the older irrigation districts. A project has also been approved which calls for economic study of irrigation in Alberta with a complete analysis of costs and benefits. It is our sincere hope that from this study a policy for irrigation development with an acceptable financial arrangement covering operation, that can be justified to all irrigation districts and to all parts of the province will be established.

We will not proceed with drainage projects in the older districts until this study has been completed. Our drainage problem on the East West Prairie Rivers in the High Prairie district is a project assisted under ARDA. We have forwarded a rural development study which will show in detail everything that contributes to the economy of the area.

It is hoped that this can then be used to start various ARDA programs which will generally enhance the income of that particular area. We have requested our service boards to be appointed as local ARDA committees to study and promote these programs in each county or M.D. To date 32 local governments have appointed their service boards as a nucleus for an ARDA committee and to date no local government has refused to appoint their board. I wish to point out that as your Minister charged with the provincial administration of this Act I feel we need the greatest possible co-operation from everyone and we hope local participation of various organizations in the community will be encouraged.

WATER RESOURCES:

During the past year some criticism has been levelled against Alberta in relation to our use of water resources. For the past 10 or 15 years the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in Ottawa have been turning out topographic maps of our country and these have been invaluable in evaluating our water resources. These maps have not only proved previously known storage sites and diversion possibilities but have indicated many that were not known. Just recently we used these maps to delineate a site on the Smoky River that could be used to shift some of the Arctic bound water from the Smoky to the Athabasca. The site is an excellent one and the drainage basin above this site is 3900 sq. miles and the estimated annual runoff at this point is 2 million 500 thousand acre feet. This site fits in with the other diversions and reservoir sites that we have previously investigated.

Under step 1 there will be a diversion of tributaries of the North Saskatchewan river to the Red Deer. Under step 2 there will be a diversion of tributaries of the Athabasca to the North Saskatchewan. Step 3 would provide diversion of a tributary of the Peace to the Athabasca. Upstream storage reservoirs are an interesting part of all of these diversions with the net result that all of the streams affected are improved. We have avoided diversions of any main streams and have concentrated on the tributaries. This will make the costs very moderate and avoid major dislocation of the main rivers. The 3 step diversion plan will confer great benefit on the 3 prairie provinces. Construction can be started any time and carried out according to an orderly plan.

In Alberta it is paradoxical that the greatest available water supplies are in the areas of least population. The plan we propose is not intended completely to correct this imbalance but it will be a start in the right direction. It has been estimated that the future consumptive use will be over 2 million acre feet of water. Since well over 50 million acre feet of water flow out of Alberta annually to the Arctic it could not or would not seem unreasonable to use 4% of this water for depletions. We feel that our Province needs to give serious consideration to proper conservation rather than trying to devise a faster method of draining this valuable asset. We now think that (To Page 7)

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

FOR MARCH



Municipal District Act

5th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at the next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(1)(v).

March 1 - Add penalty to arrears of taxes. Sec. 349.

March 3 - Council shall appoint an auditor before this date. Sec. 66(1).

March 15 - First quarter of supplementary school requisition due. Sec. 338.

Council shall appoint an assessor forthwith if not already having done so. Sec. 64(1).

Prepare estimates of revenues and expenditures and set mill rates by by-law as soon as practicable. Sec. 331.

Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at the next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

March 15 - First quarter of supplementary school requisition due. Sec. 355.

March 31 - Council may pass a resolution on or before this date to requisition the Chief Provincial Assessor to make an assessment. Sec. 71(4).

April 1 - Appoint assessor each year on or before this date and advise the Minister of this appointment. Sec. 71.

April 1 - Appoint auditor each year on or before this date and advise the Minister of this appointment. Sec. 73.

Prepare estimates of revenues and expenditures and set mill rates by by-law as soon as practicable. Sec. 353.

Assessment Act, 1960

Council shall appoint members of the council to a court of revision and fix a date for its sitting. Sec. 32 and 35.

March 31 - Completion of duties of the Court of Revision by this date. Sec. 43.

Certify assessment roll complete upon closing of sittings of court of revision or upon expiry of time for complaining. Sec. 46.

Tax Recovery Act

March 1 to 31 - Prepare a Tax Arrears List. Sec. 4.

A REVIEW OF THE FARM PICTURE

(From Page 6)

some of our wet areas should remain wet areas in the best interest of the province.

In Ontario they have spent the last 50 years attempting and doing it, draining much of their land. In a recent article I read they suggested that they may have to spend the next 50 years trying to build up water tables. I say that we in Alberta can take a note of what they have done and benefit from their experience. We are prepared to share the information we have in regard to our water diversion plans with our sister provinces. It has been suggested that Alberta is not prepared to do this and I want again to state that this is not so. We are not prepared to spend money making studies and surveys on areas that have already been checked but we are certainly recognizing that we cannot consider this asset alone but it is one we must share with our sister provinces. Mr. Chairman, about a month ago the Premier suggested that we set up Cabinet committees and that these committees go out into various parts of the Province and make themselves available to those areas and to anyone who wished to come and see them and present problems to them.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

I had a rather interesting one presented to me in one of the areas in the South. They asked me if I would bring it to the attention of your Association here. It had to do with the matter of recreation. I am sure that many of you recognize the urban areas have built for us very fine recreational facilities. I believe that some of these areas are going to find themselves in a little difficulty. They are going to find themselves unable to carry on with the program of the project that they have planned. And what they suggested was that they would like to see the rural areas give some assistance to them and they were thinking of it on the basis of a municipal unit. I think that the proposition has some merit because we all recognize that these urban developments are of real benefit to the rural area as well. And so I leave it with you as a suggestion from one urban area that would like you to give some consideration to it.

ARDA PROJECT IN EDSON AREA

(From Page 1)

of senior civil servants, was announced a year ago. Since that time, a co-ordinating committee at the deputy minister level has also been set up, while throughout the Province some 32 Agricultural Service Boards have been designated by local authorities as ARDA sub-committees. Projects approved by the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee go to the Executive Council after which they must be submitted to Ottawa where final approval is dependent upon the estimate of costs involved. Where a project costs \$50,000 or less, sanction may come from the Federal ARDA Committee, but if more than \$50,000 expenditure is involved, final approval must come from the Federal Treasury Board.

SPEAKING OF ARDA . . .

During the AGRICULTURAL SEMINAR held at Red Deer in December, Ed Nelson speaking as President, Farmer's Union of Alberta, dealt with the topic "ARDA - Its Importance and Application to the Farmers of Alberta". The following are a few paragraphs taken from Mr. Nelson's address:

ARDA should be a Canadian program, and one of the best ways of ensuring that this becomes so, and at the same time ensuring that the program grows and develops over the years, is that a Canadian (Federal-Provincial) study and training institute be established where administrators, voluntary leaders, extension people, university people and so on could study the principles and practice of agricultural resources and community development, in a Canadian context.

Both provincially and federally it should be accepted as policy that representative voluntary agencies and groups may contract with ARDA to carry out research and training projects should be published as a condition of the contract. National and Provincial farm organizations should engage in such activity.

A series of regional meetings should be held throughout the province for leaders of local organizations and agencies to interpret ARDA, its functions and its limitations. Presently there is too much uncertainty, and mis-understanding.

The F. U. A. together with other Co-op organizations (F. U. & C. D. A.) is presently conducting a research program that will involve more than 2000 farm people, mostly on a voluntary basis. When this program is completed, some time in 1964, we hope to have a better picture of actual conditions in every part of the province. We also hope to have a good indication of farmers' attitudes to these conditions and any suggestions they may have for changes. It should make it possible to segregate problem areas and areas with special needs. This information will be available to any organization or government department. In addition to the foregoing, we also hope to have an indication of farmers' attitudes to organizations of all kinds, to government services and to what extent these are now used.

In our view, the importance of this information is mostly in the fact that actual farmers on the land have participated in its formulation. We recognize that much of this information can be made available in other ways. This study will reflect the farmers own attitude to these things and the importance of this must not be underestimated. This is the first time that any organization, University or government agency has conducted an extensive sociological survey to really find out what the farmer thinks and feels.

The F. U. A. is and always has been aware of the urgent need for trained community leaders. No project or community effort is possible without this leadership. Over the years we have been seeking out and, with other agencies, attempted to train a limited number each year. Our resources are not sufficient to do more than a cursory job.

We feel that these things come within the scope and intent of the ARDA legislation. We would, therefore welcome assistance and offer our facilities to these kind of projects. When any area development or adjustment is undertaken, the F. U. A. will welcome an opportunity to participate. ARDA was intended to serve people. We must make it possible for people to participate. Only close co-operation and co-ordination between the various levels of government and farm organizations will insure this participation.

LONG IN THE SERVICE

D.E. Batchelor retired last October 31 as Chief Commissioner of Calgary after 38 years of service with the City. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Batchelor said he was compelled to step down on the advice of his doctor "with extreme regret." Widely known among municipal people throughout Canada and the United States, he took with him the respect and esteem of all who knew him in civic and provincial government circles.

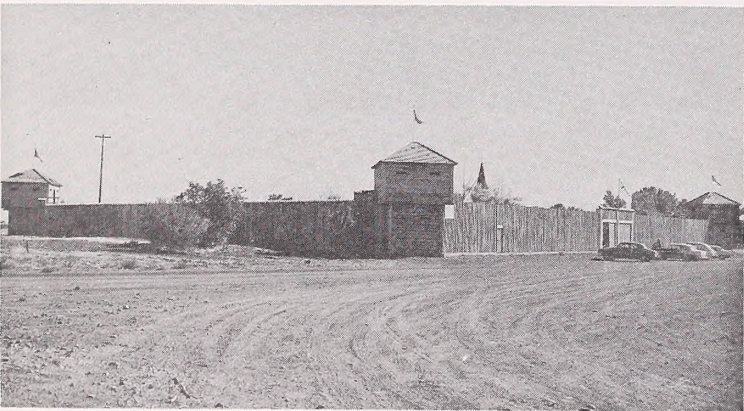


D.E. BATCHELOR
Mr. Batchelor was transferred to Waterworks where at the age of 23 he became Cashier of that Department. On May 22, 1933, he was transferred again, this time to the Treasurer's Department where he took a post as bookkeeper. His next step up came seven years later in 1940 when he was appointed Assistant Treasurer, a post he held until August 1, 1951, when he became City Treasurer. His appointment as Commissioner of Finance came on August 16, 1954, and he was named Chief Commissioner on December 7, 1959 . . . some 33 years and eight months after his first day as a clerk.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Batchelor has gained recognition as an authority on municipal taxation and finance generally and is the author of several works on the subjects. Two of these are "Municipal-Provincial Fiscal Relationships", published in 1960, and "Financing Education and Capital Works" which appeared in 1962.

Among honors for Mr. Batchelor on his retirement were tributes and gifts from the Calgary City Council and his former colleagues at City Hall. A civic reception was given in his honor at which he was the recipient of an illuminated address, a painting by Gissing and a television set all presented to him on behalf of the people of Calgary.

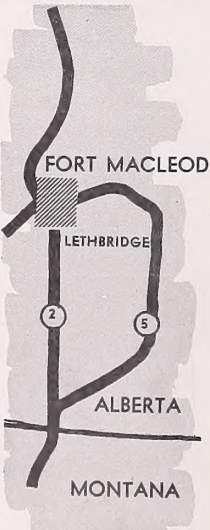
HISTORY IN ALBERTA



Stockade of Fort Macleod is 12 feet high. Main gate is 15 feet high and 27 feet wide. The whole structure was built of heavy peeled logs. Not one nail can be found in the main gate or any of the four bastions. Wooden pegs were used to show the type of construction used in the old fort.

FIRST NWMP FORT

A stylized replica of the first North West Mounted Police fort in Western Canada has proven to be a major tourist attraction for south Alberta's Fort Macleod. Style of construction generally follows that of the original fort which was built in 1874. It is 225 feet long and 175 feet wide. A bastion or look-out tower has been added at each corner of the structure. These towers, 26 feet high and 12 feet square on the



D M A DIRECTORY
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS BUILDING
10363 108 STREET, EDMONTON

ROOM		TELEPHONE
204	Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister	424 9596
204	A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister	424 9588
210	B. Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector	424 1047
210	W.D. Isbister, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector	424 1054
210	Municipal Inspectors (Municipal Inspection Branch)	424 1071
201	J.B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner	424 1225
201	R.L. Cross, Secretary-Member, Assessment Equalization Board	424 1267
201	Research Technicians (Assessment)	424 1318
201	Inspectors of Assessment	424 3007
213	E. Breach, Chairman, Assessment Appeal Board	424 3016
213	K.A. Luke, Secretary-Member	424 3016
207	D.E. Mills, Chief Provincial Assessor	424 3096
207	P.H. Cordery, Assistant Chief Provincial Assessor	424 3304
207	S.M. Scott, Power and Pipe Line Assessment Supervisor	424 9218
207	Assessors	424 3350
209	R.A. Cantelon, Liaison Officer	424 3355
108	A.R. Isbister, Director of Field Service	424 3364
108	E.M. Rymer, Assistant Director of Field Service	424 3510
108	G.A. Arnason, Industrial Assessor	424 3524
108	Miss L. Fricker, Assessment Clerk	424 3536
108	G. Bray, Hamlet Inspector	424 3563
108	S. Sluzar, Equipment Licensing Inspector	424 3563
109	K.C. Switzer, Director of Tax Recovery	424 3566
109	J. Sloan, Assistant Director of Tax Recovery	424 3688
109	D.J. Sullivan, Leases Special Areas, Agricultural Relief Advances	424 3689
101	D.R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant	424 3715
101	W. Kinsman, Assistant Secretary-Accountant	424 3725
	Personnel Officer	422 8221
101	R.W. Parsons, Assistant Administrative Accountant	424 3725
101	Accounts Clerks, Invoices, etc.	424 3736
101	W. Giesbrecht, Chief Taxation Officer	424 3740
101	J. Thomson, Equipment Licensing	422 8591
101	Posting Room	422 8238
	Basement - Filing Room	422 8249
212	Noel Dant, Provincial Planning Director	422 8337
212	Mark B. Stagg, Senior Planner	422 8367
212	W. McL. Mackay, Planner - Central Area	422 8420
212	L.O. Smith, Planner - Northern Area	422 8462
212	Planner - Southern Area	422 8420
212	J.N. Polonuk, Senior Administrator	422 8368
212	F. Byrne, Secretary, Provincial Planning Board	422 8368
212	Drafting Room	422 8462
	Caretaker	424 2961
	Local Authorities Board	
111	C.G. Macgregor, Chairman	424 3530
111	Ian Morris, Member and Departmental Solicitor	424 1245
111	A. Wetter, Member	424 1245
111	W. Elliott, Secretary	424 3384
	General Office	424 1098

second floor, were commonly used as guard towers on many western forts. Armed sentries manned the bastions day and night, peering from gun slots cut through the heavy log walls.

Some 1,780 logs went into the construction of the present fort. All the hand-hewn logs were specially prepared for the Fort Macleod Historical Society by one of Alberta's few remaining log craftsmen, Hobart A. Dowler, who makes his home near Pigeon Lake.

The original Fort Macleod was erected in October of 1874 on an island of the Oldman River, about two miles east of the present townsite. Shortly thereafter the river changed its course and the partly flooded fort was moved to the site of the existing Fort Macleod.

Interesting museum pieces from the old west on display within the fort include various wagons used by early settlers, fire wagons, an old ambulance and six-ox rum wagon used by early whiskey traders. Colorful Indian teepees are also on display.

Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need more.

THINK . . . there must be a harder way to do it!

MUNICIPAL SUMMARY

1914		1964
Cities	6	(Including Lloydminster) . 10
Towns	48 90
Villages	102	(Including 21 S.V.) . . . 162
Rural		Counties 26
Municipalities . . .	84	Municipal Districts . . . 22
		I.D.'s 51
L.I.D.'s	79	Special Areas 2